Application No. 09/575,552 Docket No. 22-0099

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

A method and apparatus ~~are provided~~ for scheduling, in real-time, the order in which data packets from multiple ~~a plurality of~~ uplink channels ~~40-55~~ are organized in a downlink channel ~~60~~ of a satellite communications network ~~5~~. The satellite ~~10~~ includes uplink and downlink channels for conveying data packets over channels between user terminals ~~15-30~~, ground stations ~~35~~ and other user terminals. Queues ~~104-110~~ in the satellite ~~10~~ collect data packets from uplinks ~~40-55~~ and output the data packets to the downlink ~~60~~ using a bandwidth that is dynamically allocated. A scheduler ~~152~~ allocates the bandwidth to at least one queue ~~104-110~~ and continuously changes the amount of bandwidth allocated to each active queue ~~104-110~~ while the queue ~~104-110~~ is buffering data packets between the uplinks ~~40-55~~ and downlink ~~60~~. The scheduler ~~152~~ allocates bandwidth based upon a priority-class packet service schedule ~~200~~ calculated based upon traffic parameters associated with each active queue ~~104-110 (steps 306 and 308)~~.